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SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM

March 24, 1952

To C

From :

Subject: Dr. Herbert ENGELSING

1. Reference is made to secret memorandum dated March 3, 1952, from the Department of State which instructed the Consulate General in Zurich to re-interview Dr. ENGELSING who resides at present in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland, and is applying for a 4(b) visa to the United States. The Department wished that ENGELSING be questioned on the following points:

- (a) To what extent did Dr. ENGELSING participate in the activities of the SCHULZE-BOYSEN group which engaged in intelligence activities for a Soviet intelligence network in Germany?

(It was considered necessary to determine ENGELSING's position in this respect and to know whether he was aware of the group's real aims.)

- (b) What was the nature of Dr. ENGELSING's contacts with Gunther WEISSENBORN?
- (c) What information can be learned concerning the organization Feuerzange with which Dr. ENGELSING was in contact according to WEISSENBORN?
- (d) The Department was informed by Dispatch 2967, dated March 16, 1951, from HICOG at Frankfurt, that Dr. ENGELSING was placed on the Travel Restriction list by the British Legation in Bern, with a view to preventing his entering Germany. The Department suggested that the Consulate General contact the British Legation in order to determine the nature of the British objection to ENGELSING's entry into Germany.

2. On March 24, 1952, the undersigned interviewed Dr. ENGELSING on points (a), (b) and (c) with the following results:

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Regarding (a): Dr. ENGELSING stated that he met Harro and Libertas SCHULZE-BOYSEN socially in Berlin before the outbreak of World War II. At that time, Dr. ENGELSING wrote for a Dutch film company in Berlin named TONBILD A.G. He and his wife had a wide circle of friends among artists and writers in Germany, and they entertained frequently at their home in Berlin or at a country house. About 1938 or 1939, Harro SCHULZE-BOYSEN, who was an Oberleutnant in the German Luftwaffe, informed ENGELSING that he (SCHULZE-BOYSEN) was working against the Nazi regime and he asked ENGELSING to report to him matters of interest which might come to his attention in the artistic world. ENGELSING, who was also anti-Nazi, supplied such information to SCHULZE-BOYSEN up to the Fall of 1941 when the connection was broken. The most useful service which ENGELSING was able to render for SCHULZE-BOYSEN was to provide a convenient meeting place in his own home. ENGELSING and his wife frequently had friends from various social groups at their home, including among others the SCHULZE-BOYSENs, Gunther WEISSENBOERN, Lt. HEIMANN of the Luftwaffe, Dr. and Mrs. Adam KUCKHOFF, General Director BUSCHMANN and his wife, of the firm ASBESTZEMENT A.G., and many others. These social gatherings, which also included many persons who had no connection with the group, provided a good cover. ENGELSING emphasized the fact that he himself was not an important member of the group and it was only years later that he learned the group had several hundred members and received financial support from the Russians. ENGELSING knew that among the members of the group were persons sharing extremely variegated political views. Some were sympathetic to Communism while others like himself were opposed to Communism (ENGELSING comes from a Catholic background). The common conviction of these persons was their hatred of Nazism.

ENGELSING recalled that Harro SCHULZE-BOYSEN tried to obtain support for his organization from Winston CHURCHILL, and allegedly a message was sent to the British via Count DOUGLAS, the Swedish Military Attache in Berlin, who was a relative of SCHULZE-BOYSEN's wife. ENGELSING was informed by SCHULZE-BOYSEN that the British reaction had discouraged him since the British had stated they would only consider Germany's unconditional surrender. Thereupon in the Fall of 1941, SCHULZE-BOYSEN stated that he planned to establish contact with the Russians. ENGELSING criticized SCHULZE-BOYSEN for this attitude stating that it was impossible to drive out one

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dictatorship with another. ENGELSING remembered distinctly having used the expression, "You cannot drive out the Devil with Beelzebub". ENGELSING also recalled using the expression to SCHULZE-BOYSEN, "Qui mange du pape, en meurt". ENGELSING explained that these expressions were indications of his ideology and hostility towards Communism which was the reason for his breaking the connection with SCHULZE-BOYSEN in the Fall of 1941.

A secondary reason for the above decision was that ENGELSING and his wife disapproved of the conduct of Libertas SCHULZE-BOYSEN. The latter was openly maintaining a liaison with a high-ranking Nazi. ENGELSING condemned her conduct not only on moral grounds but also because he felt that it seriously compromised the security of the group. In general, ENGELSING criticized the SCHULZE-BOYSEN group for its insecure method of operation which was more typical of dilettantism than a convinced political movement.

After the arrest of the SCHULZE-BOYSEN group, ENGELSING was interrogated on 5 or 6 occasions by a Gestapo official named NEBE, fnu. ENGELSING claimed that he escaped any serious difficulties since he proved that he had dropped his connection with the group months previously. He was able to allay suspicions by pretending that his interest in the group was only that of a film writer looking for material.

Concerning the anti-Nazi activities subsequent to the dissolution of the SCHULZE-BOYSEN group in 1942, ENGELSING claimed that he was associated with two participants in the attempted putsch of July 20, 1944. Both of these men are described as important members of the Adenauer government in Bonn at this time. The men are Staatssekretär LENZ, fnu and Ministerialdirektor Hans GLOBKE. ENGELSING claimed that when they were in danger, because of their connection with the attempt to assassinate HITLER, both men fled with ENGELSING in the latter's car from Berlin to Bavaria.

Regarding (b): ENGELSING stated that Gunther WEISS ENBORN is a talented poet and writer. He first met him in 1937 or 1938 when ENGELSING was interested in making a film from a novel of WEISSENBOERN's called "Das Mädchen von Fanö". Although this plan never materialized, WEISSENBOERN wrote several scenarios for ENGELSING's film company. ENGELSING was never on intimate terms with WEISSENBOERN but invited him occasionally to his home

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in Berlin and knew that WEISSENBORN was a member of the SCHULZE-BOYSEN group. ENGELSING was not in contact with WEISSENBORN from 1941 until 1946 when WEISSENBORN visited Konstanz in connection with the staging of one of his plays. ENGELSING got in contact with him in order to discuss the old days and, as a special favor to WEISSENBORN, he arranged for WEISSENBORN's entrance into Switzerland for one day. WEISSENBORN wished to see some of his associates in Zurich at the Schauspielhaus. ENGELSING recalled that during the period 1940-41, WEISSENBORN had appeared to him to be of Communist sympathies. In 1946, however, he believed that WEISSENBORN had some doubts about the Communist system, since WEISSENBORN remarked that "STALIN had falsified Communism". ENGELSING learned that WEISSENBORN had later visited Moscow. He understood that WEISSENBORN had subsequently broken with Communism and had gone to Western Germany but he did not know WEISSENBORN's present whereabouts. When asked whether he had met WEISSENBORN after the latter's return from Moscow, ENGELSING replied that he had never requested a meeting with him after 1946. ENGELSING admitted that he had bumped into WEISSENBORN accidentally in a bar in Konstanz, at some date subsequent to 1946. ENGELSING claimed that he had greeted WEISSENBORN very briefly on this occasion but had not made any effort to continue the association.

Regarding (c): ENGELSING claimed no knowledge of an organization called Wuerzange. He knew that WEISSENBORN is the author of a play called "Die Illegalen", which ENGELSING has neither read nor seen performed. This play is said to be a glorification of Harro SCHULZE-BOYSEN's resistance group. WEISSENBORN also has published a book entitled "Memorial" which deals with the same topic. ENGELSING has read this last work, but claimed that there was no mention of him in it.

3. Regarding (d): The files of a controlled American source in Bern indicate that as early as 1947 ENGELSING voluntarily informed the American authorities in Switzerland concerning his association with the SCHULZE-BOYSEN network. This information was passed through the proper channels to the British authorities in London. It is believed that the British informed various British agencies abroad of Dr. ENGELSING's membership in the network without indicating the fact that ENGELSING himself had supplied the information to the Americans. This appears to be the explanation for the opposition which the British Legation in Bern expressed in regard to Dr. ENGELSING's request to travel to Germany.